



Florida House of Representatives

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SCHENCK BILL STREAMLINES PERMITTING PROCESS TO HELP ATTRACT JOBS, PRESERVE ENVIRONMENT

TALLAHASSEE, FL- Legislation to help create jobs and revitalize Florida's economy by cutting through permitting red tape and bureaucracy won unanimous approval from the Governmental Affairs Policy Committee today. House Bill (HB) 73, the "Mike McHugh Act," by Representative Robert Schenck (R-Spring Hill), eliminates delays for companies attempting to establish businesses in Florida by requiring the Department of Environmental Protection and water management districts to adopt programs that create a 45-day expedited permitting process for businesses identified by a municipality or county as engaging in one of the target industries in Florida.

"In a time when Florida's economy is slumping and businesses are leaving the state, it is responsible for the House to incentivize new businesses and stimulate job creation," said Representative Schenck. "My bill will eliminate much of the cumbersome bureaucracy and unnecessary red tape of permitting to help businesses stimulate the economy without removing environmental protections already in place."

Due to Florida's complicated growth management bureaucracy, companies the state is competing to attract often face delays when trying to locate in Florida. HB 73 would require target industry business permits to be approved or denied within 45 days, a major step forward in helping attract companies and create jobs for Floridians.

Target industry businesses are corporate headquarter businesses or businesses that engage in one of the target industries identified by the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development. This year's list includes such industries as telecommunications, space launch activities, flight training services, customer care centers, transportation equipment manufacturing and insurance carriers.

The Senate companion for HB 73 is Senate Bill 852, by Senator Mike Fasano (R- New Port Richie). HB 73 will now be referred to the Agriculture & Natural Resources Policy Committee.

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